

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01013 121132Z

42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

OMB-01 SAM-01 NSCE-00 CU-04 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-07 /090 W

----- 007729

R 120942Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2142

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1013

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SN, CH

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR PEKING

REFS: A. SINGAPORE 0742; B. SINGAPORE 0773

1. SINGAPORE'S FIVE MAN OFFICIAL GOODWILL DELEGATION HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM DEPARTED ON MARCH 11 FOR PEKING. AS REPORTED IN STRAITS TIMES, RAJARATNAM REITERATED AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE SINGAPORE'S POSITION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. QUOTE WE WILL WAIT UNTIL OUR CLOSEST NEIGHBORS HAVE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC BECAUSE IT MAKES IT EASIER ALL AROUND. MALAYSIA HAS ALREADY DONE SO. THE NEXT CLOSEST NEIGHBORS ARE INDONESIA AND THAILAND. UNQUOTE

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 01013 121132Z

2. RAJARATNAM CONFIRMED THAT GOS HAD INFORMED ASEAN GOVERNMENTS

BEFORE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (REF A) WAS MADE.

3. RAJARATNAM EXPLAINED THAT QUOTE SHORT OF THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF CHINESE DIPLOMATS HERE, EVERY FORM OF COOPERATION WILL BE EXPLORED. THAT IS WHY I AM GOING UNQUOTE. NOTING THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS WERE PREVIOUSLY INDIRECT, RAJARATNAM STATED QUOTE NOW WE CAN DISCUSS THEM AT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL. WE WILL INTENSIFY TRADE UNQUOTE.

4. RAJARATNAM EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACT BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE PRC. QUOTE EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT CHINA IS NOW AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE POLITICS OF NOT ONLY THE WORLD, BUT MOST SPECIFICALLY OUR REGION. HOW CHINA PERCEIVES THINGS, WHAT THEIR POLICIES ARE, AND THE RATIONALE BEHIND THEIR POLICIES ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SINGAPORE AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. CHINA, THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH US, WILL ALSO GET A MEASURE OF MOTIVATION BEHIND OUR POLICIES. SO, THIS DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WILL CLEAR A LOT OF MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE NEVER HAD A DIRECT DIALOGUE BEFORE UNQUOTE.

5. RAJARATNAM SAID HE WOULD EXPLAIN TO THE CHINESE SINGAPORE'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS LOCAL COMMUNISTS. QUOTE OUR ACTION AGAINST LOCAL GROUPS CALLING THEMSELVES COMMUNIST DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE ANTI-COMMUNIST. IT IS A DOMESTIC PROBLEM. WE ARE NOT FIGHTING CHINA UNQUOTE.

6. ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON TAIWAN, RAJA SAID SINGAPORE HAD STATED AT THE UN THAT TAIWAN IS PART OF CHINA AND CHINA IS THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. QUOTE WE CAN CARRY ON TRADE, BUT THERE WILL BE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FORMOSA UNQUOTE (COMMENT: IN EMBASSY'S VIEW RAJA'S STATEMENT, IF REPORTED CORRECTLY, SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF PRC).

7. RAJARATNAM STATED HE WOULD INVITE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA TO VISIT SINGAPORE. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT THE SINGAPORE DELEGATION WOULD RETURN VIA JAPAN AFTER SPENDING TEN DAYS IN CHINA. DURING THREE DAY STAY IN TOKYO, RAJARATNAM PLANS TO CALL ON THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. CRONK  
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PAGE 03 SINGAP 01013 121132Z

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, GOODWILL VISITS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR PEKING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SN, CH, (RAJARATNAM SINNATHAMBLY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006